

ATTACHMENT

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

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Honorable William H. Webster
 Director of Central Intelligence
 Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

Last February, the Committee issued a public report entitled, "U.S. Counterintelligence and Security Concerns - 1986." The report noted a number of weaknesses in our ability to undertake counterintelligence operations against espionage by other countries. A central theme was that, while any one of the weaknesses would be of individual concern, taken together, they signified an emerging pattern of poor management in U.S. counterintelligence and security programs. The report stressed the need to take more aggressive action and made sixteen findings and fourteen recommendations.

Among the principal areas of concern highlighted were:

- weaknesses in personnel selection and the need for a coordinated review of community hiring practices;
- a need for a better exchange of counterintelligence data among agencies;
- a critical need to standardize, expedite and fund the security clearance process; and
- a greater focus on financial matters in the conduct of background investigations.

The report also noted a concern that "once the glare of public scrutiny leaves the problems of espionage and security . . . the political will to advance security programs and maintain high levels of attention and necessary funding for their implementation will not be sustained."

This Committee does not intend for its report to be the final word on these matters. I have asked Tony Beilenson, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Evaluation, to follow through on the report and to undertake a continuing examination of the intelligence community's response to the Committee's findings and recommendations. I anticipate that the Subcommittee will hold hearings on these and related matters in the fall. Prior to that

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Next 24 Page(s) In Document Denied